

and Udal. Penry managed to exculpate himself, and was set at liberty. Udal disclaimed responsibility for Martin's libels, but he was convicted of being the author of a pamphlet entitled " A Demonstration of Discipline," and condemned to death, under the statute of 1581, as a felon. In deference, apparently, to the intercession of King James of Scotland, the sentence was not carried out, but the stout Puritan refused to earn his pardon by signing a confession of guilt and repentance, and was confined in the Marshalsea for several months in broken health till death put an end, towards the end of 1592, to his sufferings. His associate Penry, who escaped to Scotland, continued to utter his testimony against the hierarchy, and, on venturing back to London to present a petition for reform to the queen, was seized, condemned as a felon, and executed in May 1593.

Martin's violence did the Puritan cause more harm than good, and the majority of his co-religionists, on his own testimony, resented and censured his abusive style of controversy. " The Puritans are angrie with me," he tells us in his " Second Epistle to the Terrible Priests," " I mean the Puritan preachers. And why ? Because I am too open. Because I jest I jested, because I dealt against a worshipful jester, Dr Bridges, whose writings and sermons tend to no other end than to make men laugh. I did think that Martine should not have been blamed of the Puritans for telling the treuth openly. For may I not say that John of Canterbury is a pettie pope, seeing he is so ? You must then bear with my ingramnesse [roughness]. I am plain; I must needs call a spade a spade, a pope a pope."

The result of this intemperate plainness was an anti-Puritan reaction which swept the majority of even the House of Commons to the side of their persecutors. During the session of 1593 the Commons not only refused to entertain two bills in their favour, but passed a truculent Act against obstinate nonconformists. Every person above sixteen who should refuse to attend church, or persuade others to absent themselves, or frequent conventicles, or deny and impugn in print, writing, or speech, the queen's ecclesiastical authority, should be condemned, and, in case of persisting in his obduracy for three months, banished the realm, and summarily executed if